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A RAPPITE, HARMONY, SONG-BOOK.

IT has not until recently been generally known that the Rappites had a printing press at Harmony, Indiana, during their stay there, from 1815 to 1825. However, Mr. D. L. Passavant, who is the leading authority on the subject, has discovered a copy or two of a pamphlet which, with two volumes with the Harmonie imprint at New Harmony, seem to show that quite a little printing was done there. The copy which has been received for the Indiana State Library is coarsely printed and roughly bound in blank check forms of the Bank of the United States at Pittsburg, where apparently the Rapps did most of their banking. The copy belonged to Gertrude Rapp, and her name is written on the title page. Its full title and imprint reads:

Eine kleine Sammlung
Harmonischer Lieder
als
die erste Probe
der anfangenden Druckerei anzusehen.
Gedruckt in Harmonie, Indiana, 1824.

The book is, however, merely a collection of separates, the first group of songs being printed April 27, 1824, and the others following usually one a week. According to Mr. Arthur Dransfield, librarian of the Workingmen's Institute Public Library at New Harmony, Dr. Mueller, of the Rappite community, operated the press, and was a man of some literary ability. According to Mr. Passavant's information, the poetry was probably the production of different members of the community, considered by them as inspired, and used in the religious services of the community, but jealously guarded from outsiders.

The first three stanzas of the first poem in the collection, the

first fruit of the printing press, and possibly of the poetic spirit of the Rappite brotherhood, may not be out of place here:

1. O Harmonie, steh mit den fuessen,
Fein feste auf dem dunkeln mond!
weil du wass bessres sollt geniessen,
ja, Gott selbst bei und in dir wohnt;
dir oeffnet sich des Himmels pforte,
das Cabinet der Heiligkeit;
und so komt nach des Herren worten,
die Ewigkeit in diese zeit.

2. Du siehest mit den alten Zeugen,
das Werk des Herrn in aller Treu;
Jerusalem vom himel steigen,
und wie er alles mache neu;
die Braut des lams zum grossen prangen,
den edlen schmuck, in Gottes stadt,
und was er mit dir angefangen,
beschlossen hat in seinem Rath.

3. Er hat schon laengst voraus gesehen,
ein wunderschoenes Perlen volk,
die vor Ihm um den throne stehen,
und wohnen unter seiner Wolk!
ein volk das von ihm ist geknuefet,
in ein hoch herrlich Gnadenband,
und das darum vor Freuden huepfet,
ist es der Welt gleich unbekant.